February 19, 2009

Dr. Carol A. Couch
Director, Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Suite 1152 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

FEB 23 2009

Dear Dr. Couch,

In examining publicly available information, I have come to learn that we are heading toward a critical period in Georgia's history as it relates to electric service.

It is my understanding that we are on a course such that by the end of the next decade the power supply in this state will be inadequate to fully address even our basic needs. The thought of blackouts, brownouts and other shortages portends much more than just inconvenience. I'm concerned that hospitals, law enforcement, communications and public safety might be compromised at the most inopportune times. The other alternative is to reduce demand using higher rates which also would be a burden on individuals and businesses.

That's a key reason I fully support the efforts of Power4Georgians to build and operate Plant Washington. I have come to learn that as soon as it is placed into operation, every megawatt of electricity it produces and places on our state's power grid will be needed. That tells me we need to move forward without delay in assuring it is up and running as quickly as possible.

I am confident that the oversight of your agency, when combined with the environmental control technologies that will go into this facility, will assure that Plant Washington will be protective of human health and the environment.

As a Washington County resident and taxpayer, I would fully support a Georgia Environmental Protection Division decision to issue the permits necessary for Plant Washington.

I respectfully ask that you register my comments in your official records.

Sincerely,

Chris Hutchings ⁰ 179 Walden Road

Sandersville, GA 31082